

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Figure 4 has been amended to include a representation of an oscillator 14 which moves the damping agent distribution roll 12 to and fro in an axial direction.

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are in this application and are presented for consideration. Claims 1, 3-8, 10 and 11 have been amended and new claims 12-14 have been added.

The specification, drawings and claims have been amended to improve the style of this application.

The specification and drawings have been amended to indicate that the structure which moves the damping agent distribution roll 12 to and fro in the axial direction is an oscillator 14. The specification specifically indicates that this roll moves to and fro in paragraphs 7 and 27. Any known device for moving a roll to and fro in an axial direction can be used for the oscillator in the present invention. Therefore the oscillator of the present invention is not new matter.

The independent claims have been rejected as being anticipated by Jeschke.

Independent claims 1 and 8 have been amended to set forth that the area of ink-repellent material is annular and extends fully around the central axis of the roll, and also extends uninterrupted in a circumferential direction of the roll. Support for these features can be found in the specification in paragraph 11, and in the drawings which show the ink-repellent areas 23 extending circumferentially uninterrupted around the roll 20.

Applicant has reviewed Jeschke, and finds no teaching nor suggestion of the annular area of ink-repellent material as set forth in claims 1 and 8. The rejection compares the ink-repellent areas with element 5 of Jeschke. Applicant notes that element 5 of Jeschke does not extend circumferentially uninterrupted in Jeschke. Figure 1 of Jeschke shows two different

patterns for areas 5 and 4. The fact that the center of Figure 1 in Jeschke is lacking elements 4, is not an indication that element 5 is to be uninterrupted circumferentially, but instead only indicates that the pattern to the left is separate from the pattern to the right. Applicant finds no teaching nor suggestion in Jeschke that an uninterrupted ink-repellent material would be beneficial or desirable.

Since Jeschke does not describe ink-repellent material extending uninterrupted in a circumferential direction, Jeschke cannot anticipate all of the features of amended claims 1 and 8.

Applicant notes that the objective of Jeschke is to measure the ratio of damping medium to ink, column 2, lines 25-30. Jeschke does this by applying the emulsion of ink and water to a measuring cylinder 3, and then measuring the emulsion with measuring device 6, as the measuring roller 3 rotates passed the measuring device 6. By the roller 3 having areas 5 which attract the damping medium, in areas 4 which attract the ink, the measuring device 6 is able to calculate how much damping medium and how much ink is on the roller. Applicant notes that if the circumferential direction in Jeschke was covered with just ink repellent material or just ink friendly material, the measuring device 6 would not provide an accurate measurement. If the circumferential direction in Jeschke was all ink-repellent material, the measuring device 6 would not properly measure the amount of ink. Instead, Jeschke specifically indicates that the elements 4 and 5 should vary in the circumferential direction.

It is Applicant's position that it also would not be obvious to amend Jeschke to have ink-repellent material extending uninterrupted in a circumferential direction. If Jeschke was

modified to have this circumferentially uninterrupted material, Jeschke would not operate properly, and Jeschke would be unsatisfactory for its initial objective. Such modifications are not an indication of obviousness. Therefore it is Applicant's position that claims 1 and 8 are further not obvious in view of Jeschke.

Claim 7 has further been amended to set forth an oscillator connected to the roll and moving the roll to and fro in an axial direction. Support for this can be found in the specification in paragraph 7 and 27. Applicant has reviewed Jeschke, and finds no teaching nor suggestion of an oscillator connected to a roll, and moving a roll to and fro in an axial direction.

The present invention is used in a printing system where a damping agent is applied to a plate cylinder, and the damping agent distributor or moves back and forth in an axial direction to apply the damping agent. Applicant has found that when the plate cylinder is used to print a plurality of adjacent strips on a very wide sheet, the ink used from one strip can interfere with the ink on another strip. This is especially disadvantageous if there are two different inks on adjacent strips. This problem is caused by the damping agent distribution roll moving to and fro in the axial direction. By having the uninterrupted band of ink repellent material, this problem is avoided, since the inks from adjacent strips do not interfere with each other even though the distribution roller moves back and forth.

Jeschke on the other hand relates to a device for measuring the ratio of damping medium and ink in a printing system. Jeschke therefore relates to a different area of a printing system than the present invention. As such, Jeschke would not have an oscillator for moving

a roll to and fro in an axial direction. Furthermore, Applicant finds no incentive or motivation which would lead a person of ordinary skill in the art to move a roll in Jeschke to and fro in an axial direction. Therefore Jeschke cannot anticipate claim 7 or cause claim 7 to be obvious.


New claims 13 and 14 set forth further features of the damping system, namely the transfer roll and the application roll for the damping agent, and the plate cylinder for receiving the damping agent from the roll. Applicant notes that Jeschke does not describe such structure, especially with the same relationship as the roll in claim 7. Applicant notes that while Jeschke describes a plate cylinder 20, Jeschke does not describe a damping agent transfer roll and a damping agent applicator roll having the same relationship with element 3 that these rolls have with the roll of claim 7. Therefore claims 13 and 14 further define over the Jeschke.

Claim 12 sets forth that the annular area extends uninterrupted in a circumferential direction of the roll. This feature is similar to the feature previously described with regard to claims 1 and 8. Claim 12 therefore further defines over Jeschke for the same reasons as claims 1 and 8.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which would further favorable prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative by telephone to discuss possible changes.

At this time, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application, and based on the above amendments and remarks, respectfully solicits allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted
for Applicant,

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TD:jms

Enclosed: Petition for One Month Extension of Time
Credit Card Payment Form
Replacement Sheet

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